

# THE BARREN FIG TREE

## Luke 13: 7 - 13

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Jesus spoke this parable after correcting their false ideas about calamities.

(1) The story of the Galileans who had been slain -- Luke 13: 1 - 5

2. This could be called a lesson on "Repentance" -- Matt. 3: 7 - 10; 23: 37 - 38 ( the Jewish Nation)

### I. THE PARABLE STATED

1. A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard -- Luke 13: 6

2. He came seeking fruit from the tree, but he found none -- Luke 13: 6 (for three years v. 7)

3. He commanded the dresser of the vineyard to cut the fig tree down -- Luke 13: 7

4. The dresser of the vineyard asked that it be let alone for another year that he might dig about it and dung it -- then if it brought forth no fruit he would cut it down -- Luke 13:8; Matt. 24:14

### II. THE ANALYSIS OF THE PARABLE

1. The owner of the vineyard is God.

2. The owner comes seeking fruit from the tree.

(1) The tree had been favored, but it was barren.

3. The fact of the owner coming for fruit shows that God desires that His people shall produce good works.

(1) John 15:8; Gal. 5: 22 - 23; II Pet.1: 5 - 11; Rom. 7:4

4. The bareness of the fig tree shows:

(1) Slothfulness and wickedness -- Matt. 25:26

(2) The fault was in the tree.

(3) It is sad to think of the people who receive gospel privileges, yet are barren in life.

5. The vine dresser would refer to Christ and other messengers of God pleading for his people to do better.

6. The period of waiting to destroy the tree denotes the delay of God's vengeance to give an opportunity to repentance.

(1) II Pet. 3: 9, 15; Rev. 2: 20- 21

7. The remark of the dresser that "*IT MIGHT THEN BE CUT DOWN*" denotes a heavy judgment would be just for the unfruitful -- John 15:8; Rom. 7:4; Matt. 25: 1 - 13; 25: 24 - 30

8. We should disturb the fruitless and unfaithful members of the church with the truth, as the vine dresser disturbed the fig tree and gave it the opportunity to bear by digging and putting fertilizer around it -- Luke 13: 8 - 9

(1) II Tim. 4: 1 - 5

### III. THE TRAGEDY OF UNFRUITFULNESS:

1. The unfruitful are useless -- Matt. 5:13; John 15: 1 - 5

2. The unfruitful will have the wrath of God visited upon them -- Matt. 25: 30, 41; 7:19; John 15: 1 - 5, 6
  - (1) One might be unfruitful because of the works of the flesh -- Gal. 5: 19 - 21
  - (2) One might be unfruitful because of inactivity -- James 4: 17; 1: 22 -25
3. The sin of unfruitfulness sometimes causes churches to die.
  - (1) The church at Sardis -- Rev. 3: 1 - 6
  - (2) The church at Laodicea -- Rev. 3: 14 - 22
4. The story of the two seas
  - (1) The sea of Galilee receives and gives its waters, and it has an abundance of life in it.
  - (2) The Dead Sea receives its water, but it gives nothing and it has no life in it.
5. The fig tree was not only useless, but it was also harmful.
  - (1) It cumbered the ground
  - (2) It took up the space and fatness of the ground, and shaded the ground so that the vines could not grow.
6. The unfaithful and unfruitful church member does harm
  - (1) He takes zeal from the faithful members
  - (2) He keeps others from obeying the truth -- Matt. 23:13

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(Underwood Hts. 1972; Hebron Lane Oct. 2, 1988; River Bend 1997)